

December 6, 1977

Memo to File:

Re: Brush Wellman, Inc.  
ACT/023/003

On November 29th 1977, Ron Daniels, Mike Thompson and myself made a field visit to Brush Wellman's Topaz Mining Property. We met with Mr. Lee Davis and Mr. Jack Thomas to discuss establishing experimental revegetation test plots on their spoil dumps and to give Mike and myself a general overview of their operation.

We asked Mr. Davis and Mr. Thomas about their feelings and ideas concerning the test plots. They expressed a very cooperative attitude and proved to be amenable to whatever the Division felt would be reasonable in this joint effort. One idea Mr. Thomas brought forth was to limit this years activity to preparing the sites and applying fertilizer since the dumps are highly nutrient deficient. Seeding and mulching could take place next fall. Mr. Davis was informed that all expenses would be the responsibility of Brush Wellman.

We toured the operation paying particular attention to the three (3) dump areas. The Roadside dump is the oldest dump being 8-9 years old, the Blue Chalk dump is 4-5 years old, and the Fluoro dump is the current dump. The dumps have been or are currently being covered with 6 to 12 inches of fine material and the edges rounded off. The older dumps showed evidence of insignificant rill erosion and a sparse growth of halogeton. The Roadside dump had a thin layer of manganese in one area which may present a toxicity problem for plant development. We were informed that Brush Wellman planned to fill in old pits with materials excavated from new pits. The area looked good overall.

The Division would like to set up test plots on each of the dumps and as soon as a tentative experimental design is drawn up it will be presented to Ken Poulson for review and approval.

JWS  
JAMES W. SMITH  
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST